

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DEMOLITION BEGINS AT PIO PICO SHP

Demolition of the City of Whittier's water pumping facility has begun at Pio Pico State Historic Park. These and other structures not relating to the time period of Pio Pico will be demolished.

Demolition is making way for the recreated life of El Ranchito, the beloved ranch of Don Pio de Jesus Pico. Fruit orchards, fields of barley and corn, and colorful gardens will be planted around the adobe home of Pio Pico. Animal corrals will be built to reflect cattle ranching from the 1850s through the 1880s. Outdoor exhibits will explain about what life was like at the working ranch. This project will provide a reconstructed historic landscape, outdoor classroom, park setting, and park facilities: all creating a parkland setting, and an educational and urban oasis.

Pio Pico was the last civilian Governor of Mexican California. In 1848, he acquired the 8,891 acre Rancho Paso de Bartolo Viejo. He named the land "El Ranchito" (the little rancho) and built an adobe home. Pio Pico lived at various times in the adobe until 1892. Pio Pico State Historic Park is the only remnant property left of the original ranch.

Pio Pico State Historic Park is closed to allow for the reconstruction of 19th century landscaping. The park is scheduled to reopen for public use in late 2002. Pio Pico State Historic Park is located at 6003 Pioneer Blvd., Whittier, California 90606.

For more information, please call Fred Andrews at 562-693-2944.